

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a page entitled "Version of Markings to Show Changes Made."

Claims 6-8 and 10 - 14 remain in this application. Claim 6 has been amended.

1. Drawings

The Examiner has indicated in the accompanying form PTO-948 that the formal drawings previously submitted have been approved.

2. § 103 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable for obviousness over European Patent No. 464,613 (Ohga).

Applicants have amended claim 6 to overcome the objections posed by the examiner with regard to the Ohga patent. None of the cited references teach or suggest separate, interconnected, generally tubular sections contained less than 900 part per billion impurities. Thus, as amended, the § 103 rejection is overcome.

3. Conclusion

Based upon the above amendments, remarks, and papers of record, Applicant believes the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the prior art of record. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims 6-8 and 10-14 and a prompt Notice of Allowance thereon.

Applicant believes that a one month extension of time is necessary to make this Response timely. Should Applicant be in error, Applicant respectfully requests that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Reply timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Randall S. Wayland at 607-974-0463.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 7/11/02

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VERSION OF MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

6. (second amendment) A method for producing a waveguide fiber in a draw furnace including a graphite, generally tubular muffle having an inner surface comprising the steps of:

providing a high purity silicon carbide coating on the inner surface of the graphite muffle wherein the high purity silicon carbide coating contains less than 900 parts per billion of impurities and the muffle comprises at least two separate, interconnected generally tubular sections;

disposing waveguide fiber preform in the muffle;

heating the furnace to a temperature sufficient to draw fiber from the preform;

and drawing fiber from the preform



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